

Department I - C Plus Plus

Modern and Lucid C++ for Professional Programmers

Week 3 – Sequences and Iterators

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- You can use `std::array` and `std::vector` in your code
- You can use an iterator to access container elements
- You can access and modify container contents using algorithms
- You can interact with streams through iterators

- **Recap Week 2**
- **Introduction to Basic Sequence Containers**
- **Iteration over Container Elements**
- **Introduction to Algorithms**
- **Iterators for I/O**

Recap Week 2



- What is the output?

```
void main() -> int {  
    std::cout << 42 << '\n'  
        << std::oct << 42 << '\n';  
  
    std::cout << std::setfill('\052') << std::setw(5) << 42 << "\n";  
  
    std::cout << 42 << '\n';  
}
```

- Which include is required for std::setw?

- Which includes for IO are required and why?

main.cpp

```
#include "sayhello.h"
#include <?>

auto main() -> int{
    sayHello(std::cout);
}
```

sayhello.hpp

```
#ifndef SAYHELLO_H_
#define SAYHELLO_H_

#include <?>

auto sayHello(std::ostream&) -> void;

#endif /* SAYHELLO_H_ */
```

sayhello.cpp

```
#include "sayhello.h"
#include <?>

auto sayHello(std::ostream& os) -> void {
    os << "Hi there!\n";
}
```

`std::array` and `std::vector`



Goals:

- You can use `std::array` and `std::vector` in your code
- You know how to get iterators for standard containers

```
std::array<int, 5> name{1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
```

- **C++'s `std::array<T, N>` is a fixed-size Container**

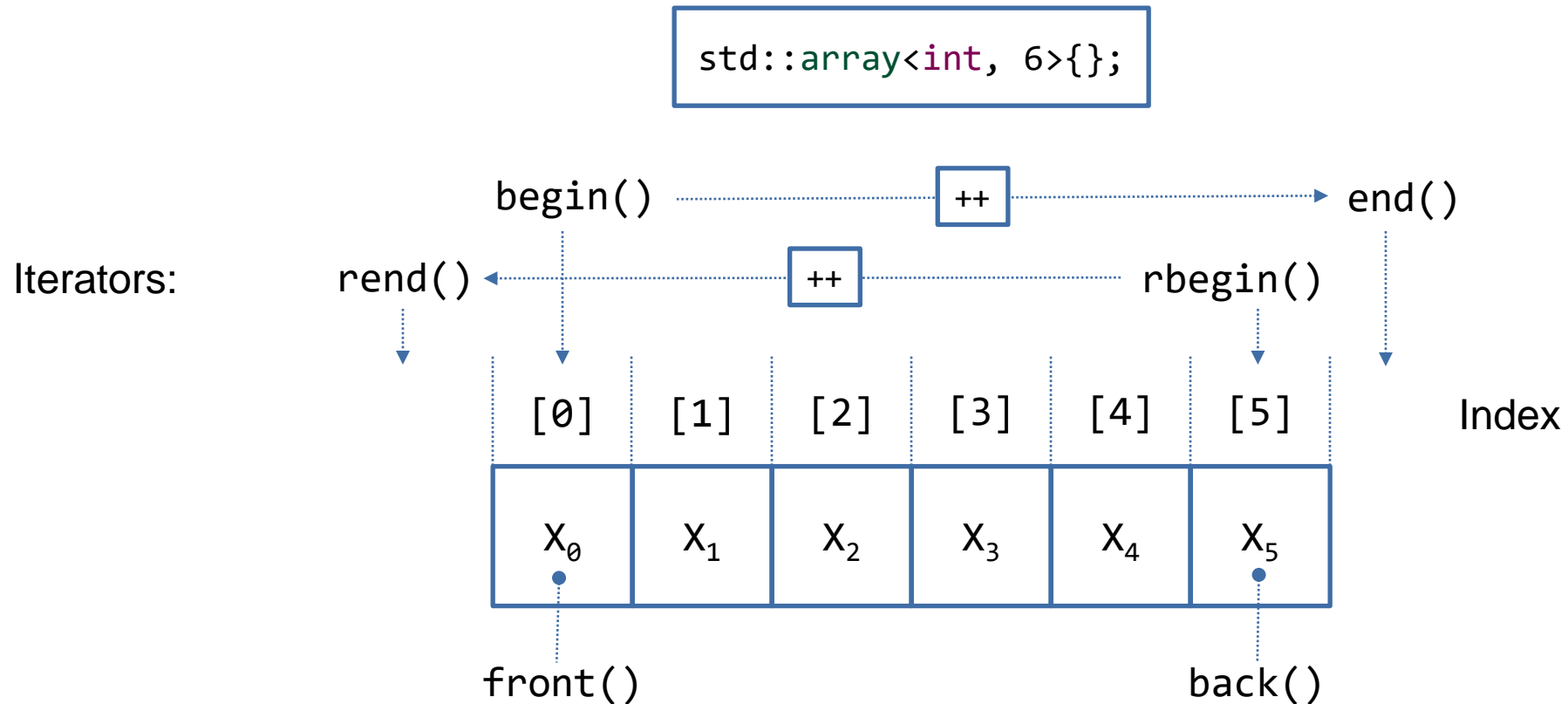
- T is a *template type parameter* (= placeholder for type)
- N is a positive integer, *template non-type parameter* (= placeholder for a value)
- Both can be deduced from the initializer

- **`std::array` can be initialized with a list of elements**

- The size of an array must be known at compile-time and cannot be changed
- Otherwise, it contains N default-constructed elements: `std::array<int, 5> emptyArray{};`

- **The size is bound to the array object and can be queried using `.size()`**

- **Avoid plain C-Array whenever possible: `int arr[]{1, 2, 3, 4, 5};`**



- **Element access using subscript operator `[]` or `at()`**
 - `at()` throws an exception on invalid index access
 - `[]` has undefined behavior on invalid index access



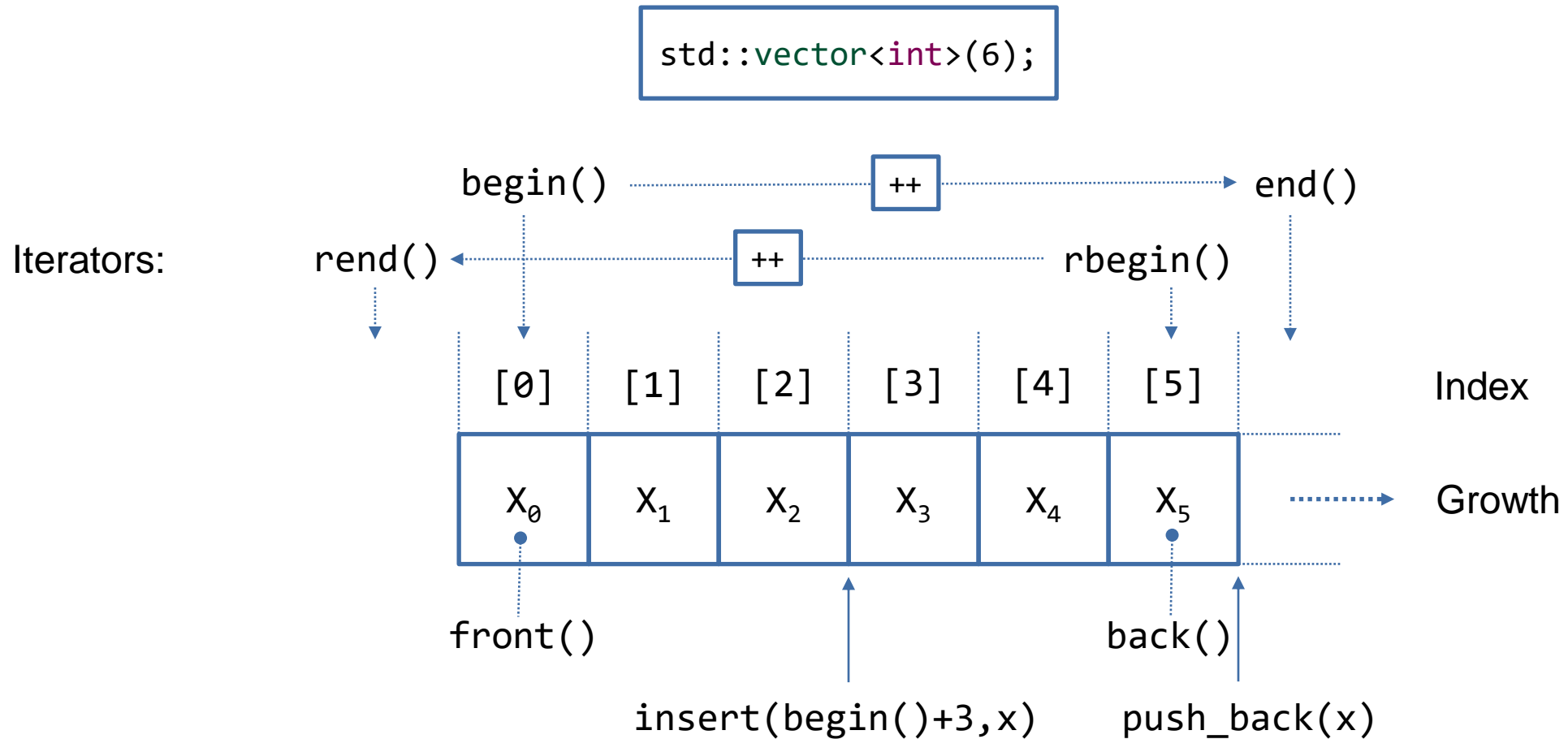
```
std::vector<int> name{1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
```

- **C++'s `std::vector<T>` is a Container = contains its elements of type T (no need to allocate them)**
 - `java.util.ArrayList<T>` is a collection = keeps references to T objects (must be “new”ed)
 - T is a *template type parameter* (= placeholder for type)
- **`std::vector` can be initialized with a list of elements**
 - Otherwise, it is empty: `std::vector<double> vd{};`
 - Other construction means might need parentheses (legacy)
- **When an initializer is given, the element type can be deduced!**

```
std::vector{1, 2, 3, 4, 5};
```

```
std::vector{};
```

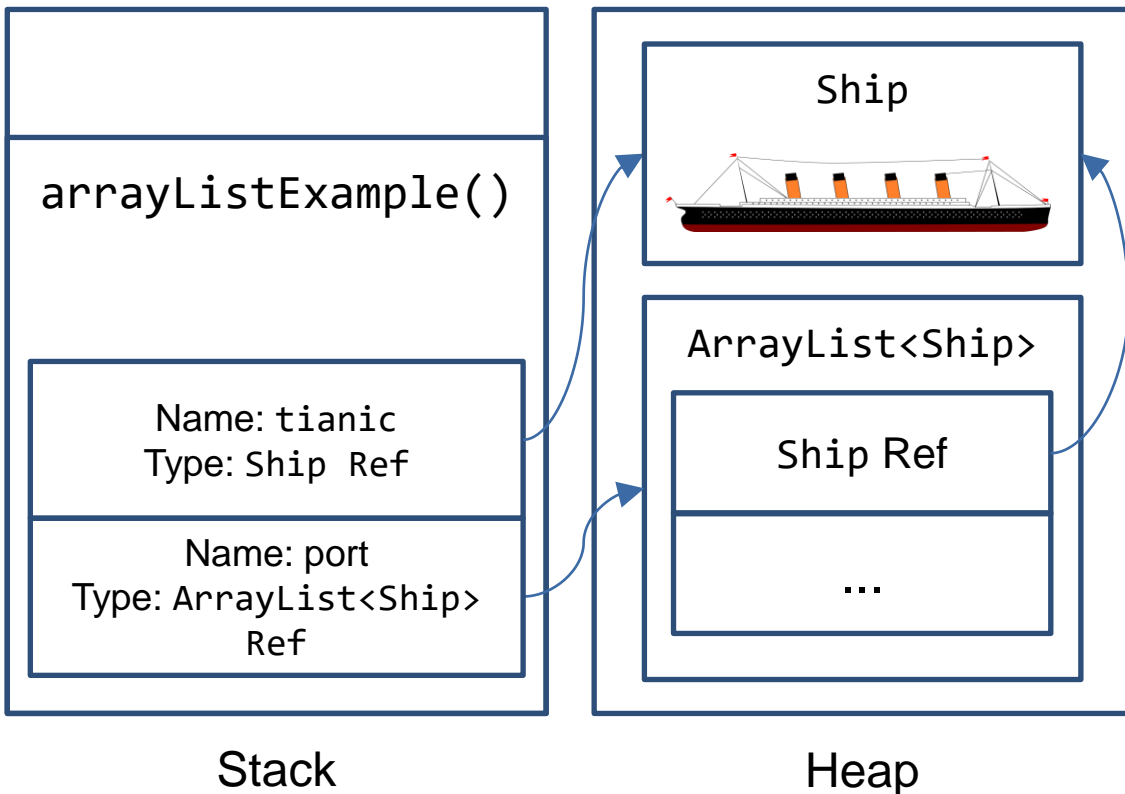




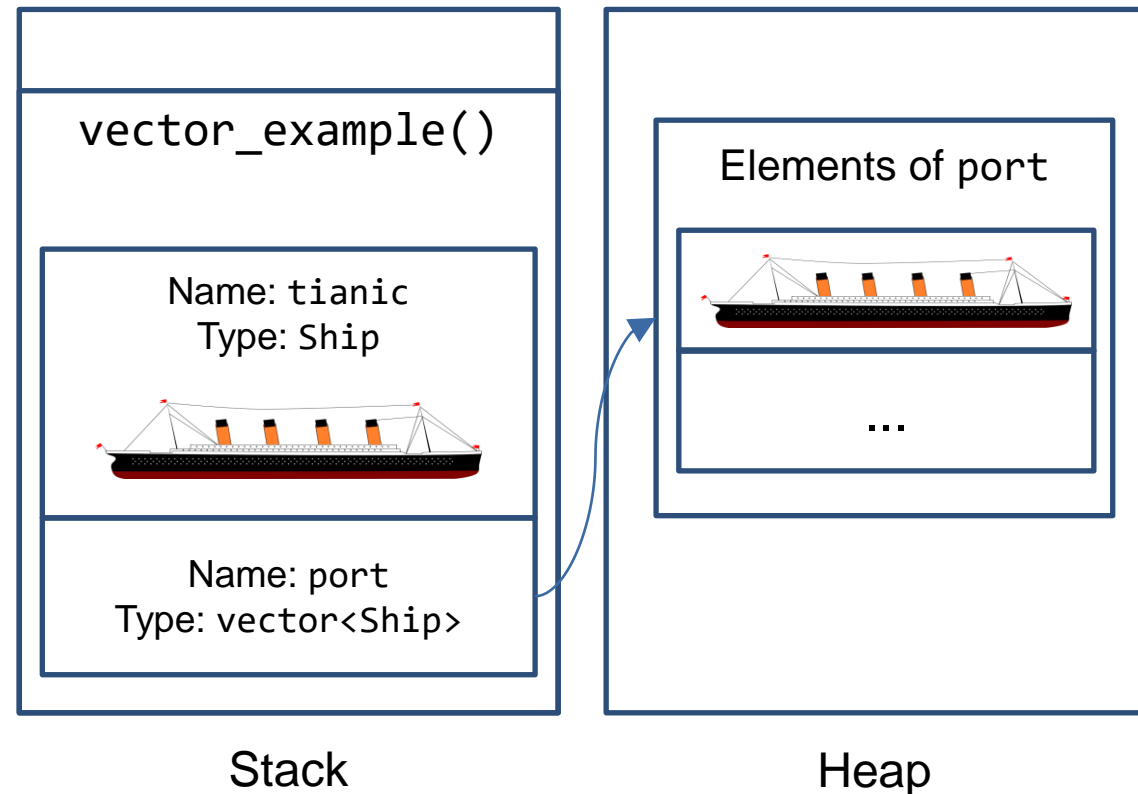
- Parenthesis at definition allow providing initial size, when type of elements is a number

■ `std::vector<std::string> words{6};` works

```
public class SomeClassWeDontReallyNeed {
    public static void arrayListExample() {
        Ship titanic = new Ship("RMS Titanic");
        ArrayList<Ship> port = new ArrayList<>();
        port.add(titanic);
    }
}
```



```
#include "Ship.hpp"
#include <vector>
auto vector_example() -> void {
    Ship titanic{"RMS Titanic"};
    std::vector<Ship> port{};
    port.push_back(titanic);
}
```



Iteration

Goals:

- You know how to get and use iterators from a standard container



```
for (size_t i = 0; i < v.size(); ++i) {  
    std::cout << "v[" << i << "] = " << v[i] << '\n';  
}
```

- You can index a vector like an array

- CAUTION: No bounds check!
- Accessing an element outside the valid range is Undefined Behavior



- Index variable type is "unsigned"

- size_t or std::vector<T>::size_type

- Accessing elements with at() checks bounds

- std::out_of_range exception is thrown when accessing an invalid index

```
for (size_t i = 0; i < v.size(); ++i) {  
    std::cout << v.at(i) << '\n';  
}
```

- Print all elements except the last

```
void printButLast(std::vector<char> const & values) {  
    for (size_t i = 0; i < values.size() - 1; ++i) {  
        std::cout << "v[" << i << "] = " << values[i] << '\n';  
    }  
}  
  
int main() {  
    std::vector letters{'a', 'b', 'c', 'd'};  
    printButLast(letters);  
  
    std::vector<char> empty{};  
    printButLast(empty);  
}
```



- Index-based iteration is used only if the actual index value is required!

- **Advantage: No index error possible**
- **Works with all containers, even value lists {1, 2, 3}**

	const: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • element cannot be changed 	non-const: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • element can be changed
reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • element in vector is accessed 	<pre>for (auto const & cref : v) { std::cout << cref << '\n'; }</pre>	<pre>for (auto & ref : v) { ref *= 2; }</pre>
copy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loop has own copy of the element 	<pre>for (auto const ccopy : v) { std::cout << ccopy << '\n'; }</pre>	<pre>for (auto copy : v) { copy *= 2; std::cout << copy << '\n'; }</pre>


```
for (auto it = std::begin(v); it != std::end(v); ++it) {  
    std::cout << (*it)++ << ", ";  
}
```

- **Start with `std::begin(v)`**
- **Compare against `std::end(v)`**
- **Access element with `*iterator`**
 - Changing the element in a non-const container is possible in this way
- **Guarantee to just have read-only access with `std::cbegin()` and `std::cend()`**

```
for (auto it = std::cbegin(v); it != std::cend(v); ++it) {  
    std::cout << *it << ", ";  
}
```

- **This kind of iteration is only useful if the position (the iterator) is required in the loop**

Using Iterators with Algorithms



Goals:

- You know some basic algorithms of the standard library
- You can apply the algorithms to an `std::vector` with its iterators

- **Each algorithm takes iterator arguments**

- The range(s) of elements to apply an algorithm to is specified by iterators

- **The algorithm does what its name tells us**

- **Example: Counting values**

- Algorithm `std::count` returns the number of occurrences of a value in range
- Works with all ranges denoted by a pair of iterators

```
auto count_blanks(std::string s) -> size_t {  
    size_t count{0};  
    for (size_t i = 0; i < s.size(); ++i) {  
        if (s[i] == ' ') {  
            ++count;  
        }  
    }  
    return count;  
}
```

```
//The implementation is so simple it  
//is not even necessary to create  
//a separate function
```

```
auto count_blanks(std::string s) -> size_t {  
    return std::count(s.cbegin(), s.cend(), ' ');  
}
```

- **Summing up all values in a vector (with `std::accumulate`)**

```
#include <numeric>
```

- Applies + operator to elements
- Requires the initial value

```
std::vector<int> v{5, 4, 3, 2, 1};  
std::cout << std::accumulate(std::cbegin(v), std::cend(v), 0) << " = sum\n";
```

- **Number of elements in range (with `std::distance`)**

```
#include <iterator>
```


- Containers provide a `size()` member function
- Useful if you only have iterators

```
void printDistanceAndLength(std::string s) {  
    std::cout << "distance: " << std::distance(s.begin(), s.end()) << '\n';  
    std::cout << "in a string of length: " << s.size() << '\n';  
}
```

```
auto print(int x) -> void {  
    std::cout << "print: " << x << '\n';  
}  
auto printAll(std::vector<int> v) -> void {  
    std::for_each(std::cbegin(v), std::cend(v), print);  
}
```

- Like for statement: Executes an action for each element in a range
- Last argument is a function ("first class value" in C++) that takes one parameter of the element type
- Using std::cout outside main is discouraged
 - What can we do if we want to print to a given std::ostream?

```
auto print(int x, std::ostream & out) -> void {  
    out << "print: " << x << '\n';  
}  
auto printAll(std::vector<int> v, std::ostream & out) -> void {  
    std::for_each(std::cbegin(v), std::cend(v), print(?, out));  
}
```



```
auto printAll(std::vector<int> v, std::ostream & out) -> void {  
    std::for_each(std::cbegin(v), std::cend(v), [&out](auto x) {  
        out << "print: " << x << '\n';  
    });  
}
```

Lambda structure:

```
[<capture>](<parameters>) -> <return-type> {  
    <statements>  
}
```

- A lambda expression creates a function object on the fly that can be passed to an algorithm
 - The created function is called from within the algorithm
 - Capture names variables taken from the surrounding scope, or define new ones (= copy, & -> reference, rename possible, type deduced)
- Parameters are like function parameters, if any, but you can use auto
- The return_type can be omitted if void or consistent return statements in the body (-> compiler knows)

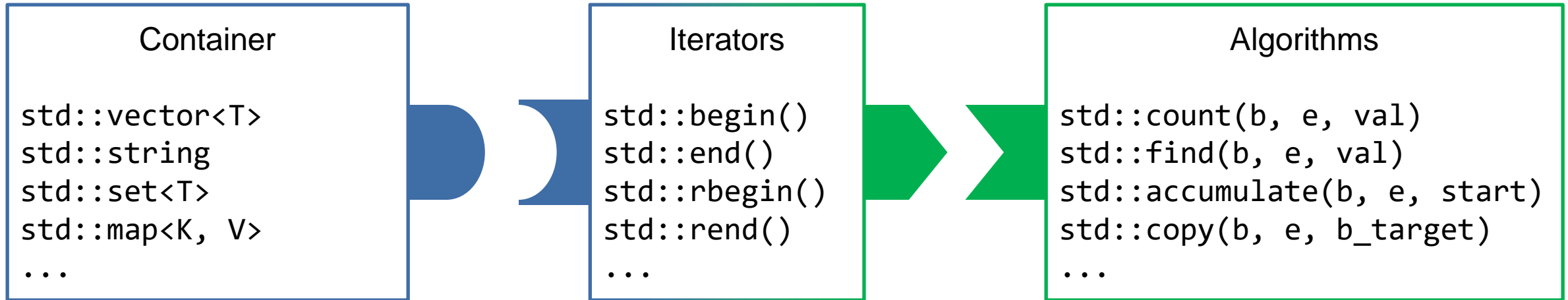
- Often ranges supplied by iterators start at `begin()` and last until `end()`
- The Ranges specification introduce the namespace `std::ranges`, which contains many standard algorithms with a reduced parameter list

Legacy algorithm

```
auto printAll(std::vector<int> v, std::ostream & out) -> void {  
    std::for_each(std::cbegin(v), std::cend(v), [&out](auto x) {  
        out << "print: " << x << '\n';  
    });  
}
```

Range algorithm

```
auto printAll(std::vector<int> v, std::ostream & out) -> void {  
    std::ranges::for_each(v, [&out](auto x) {  
        out << "print: " << x << '\n';  
    });  
}
```



- **Containers cannot be used with algorithms directly**
 - Iterators connect containers and algorithms

- **Inserting elements into an `std::vector<T>`**

- Append: `v.push_back(<value>);`
- Insert anywhere: `v.insert(<iterator-position>, <value>);`

- **When using the `std::copy` algorithm the target has to be an iterator too**

```
std::copy(<input-begin-iterator>, <input-end-iterator>, <output-begin-iterator>);  
std::ranges::copy(<input-range>, <output-begin-iterator>);
```

- **Can we do the following?**



```
std::vector<int> source{1, 2, 3}, target{};  
std::copy(source.cbegin(), source.cend(), target.end());  
std::ranges::copy(source, target.end());
```

- **Inserting elements into an `std::vector<T>`**

- Append: `v.push_back(<value>);`
- Insert anywhere: `v.insert(<iterator-position>, <value>);`

- **When using the `std::copy` algorithm the target has to be an iterator too**

```
std::copy(<input-begin-iterator>, <input-end-iterator>, <output-begin-iterator>);  
std::ranges::copy(<input-range>, <output-begin-iterator>);
```

- **We need an `std::back_inserter` or an `std::inserter`**

```
std::vector<int> source{1, 2, 3}, target{};  
std::copy(source.cbegin(), source.cend(), std::back_inserter(target));  
std::ranges::copy(source, std::back_inserter(target));
```

- Filling a vector with `std::fill` requires a vector with existing elements to be overwritten

```
std::vector<int> v{};
v.resize(10);
std::fill(std::begin(v), std::end(v), 2);
std::ranges::fill(v, 2);
```

```
std::vector<int> v(10);
std::fill(std::begin(v), std::end(v), 2);
std::ranges::fill(v, 2);
```

Caution: Requires round parentheses in case of a vector with numeric elements, otherwise it would get 1 element whose value is 10

- Or create a vector directly filled with 10 2s

- The element type is deduced to be `int` (from 2)

```
std::vector v(10, 2);
```

- The algorithms `std::generate()` and `std::generate_n()` fill a range with computed values

- Either use `std::back_inserter` or a non-empty container

```
std::vector<double> powerOfTwos{};  
double x{1.0};  
std::generate_n(std::back_inserter(powerOfTwos),  
                5,  
                [&x] {return x *= 2.0;}  
);
```

```
std::vector<double> powerOfTwos(5);  
double x{1.0};  
std::ranges::generate(powerOfTwos,  
                      [&x] {return x *= 2.0;}  
);
```

- The `std::iota()` algorithm fills a range with subsequent values (1, 2, 3, ...)

#include <numeric>

```
std::vector<int> v(100);  
std::iota(std::begin(v), std::end(v), 1);
```

- No ranges algorithms in <numeric> standard library header (until C++23)

- **`std::find()` and `std::find_if()` return an iterator to the first element that matches the value or condition**

- If no match exists the end of the range is returned

```
auto zero_it = std::ranges::find(v, 0);  
if (zero_it == std::end(v)){  
    std::cout << "no zero found \n";  
}
```

- **Similarly `std::count()` and `std::count_if()` return the number of matching elements in a range**

```
std::cout << std::ranges::count(v, 42) << " times 42\n";  
std::cout << std::ranges::count_if(v, [](int x) {  
    return isEven(x);  
}) << " even numbers\n";
```

- **Writing readable code is about expressing intentions**

- For many intentions there is a matching iterator-based algorithm in the standard library

- **It is superior to use the corresponding algorithm (function call) instead of coding your own loop**

- Correctness
- Readability
- Performance

```
bool find_with_loop(std::vector<int> const & values, int const v) {  
    auto const end = std::end(values);  
    for (auto it = std::begin(values); it != end; ++it) {  
        if (*it == v) {  
            return true;  
        }  
    }  
    return false;  
}
```

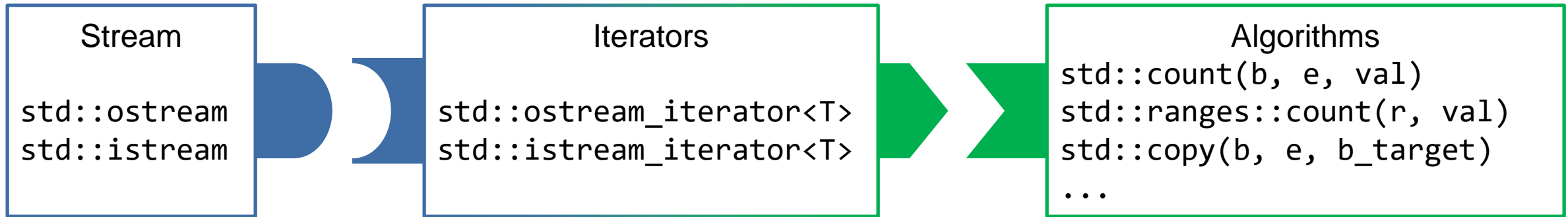
```
bool find_with_algorithm(std::vector<int> const & values, int const v) {  
    auto const pos = std::ranges::find(values, v);  
    return pos != std::end(values);  
}
```

Iterators for I/O



Goals:

- You can create iterators for `std::istream` and `std::ostream`
- You can specify ranges on streams with stream iterators



- Streams (`std::istream` and `std::ostream`) cannot be used with algorithms directly

```
std::ranges::copy(v, std::ostream_iterator<int>{std::cout, ", "});
```

- `std::ostream_iterator<T>` outputs values of type T to the given `std::ostream`
 - No `end()` marker needed for output, it ends when the input range ends

- **std::istream_iterator<T> reads values of type T from the given std::istream**

- End iterator is the default constructed std::istream_iterator<T>{}
- It ends when the stream is no longer good()

```
std::istream_iterator<std::string> in{std::cin};  
std::istream_iterator<std::string> eof{};  
std::ostream_iterator<std::string> out{std::cout, " "};  
std::copy(in, eof, out);
```

- **std::basic_istream_view<T> combines in and eof**

```
std::ranges::istream_view<std::string> in{std::cin};  
std::ostream_iterator<std::string> out{std::cout, " "};  
std::ranges::copy(in, out);
```

- The (stream) iterators have a very unpleasant name length, even with auto-completion
- A type alias can help to abbreviate that

```
using <alias-name> = <type>;
```

- Useful if long type names occur more than once
- Example
 - Copy strings from standard input to standard output

```
using input = std::istream_iterator<std::string>;  
input eof{};  
input in{std::cin};  
std::ostream_iterator<std::string> out{std::cout, " "};  
std::copy(in, eof, out);
```

- **`std::istream_iterator` uses operator `>>` for input**
 - Disadvantage: It skips white space
- **For an exact copy, we also need the rest**
- **`std::istreambuf_iterator<char>` uses `std::istream::get()` to get every character**
 - This only works with char-like types

```
using input = std::istreambuf_iterator<char>;
input eof{};
input in{std::cin};
std::ostream_iterator<char> out{std::cout, " "};
std::copy(in, eof, out);
```

- To fill a vector from a stream you can either use `copy` with `std::back_inserter(v)`

- It uses `v.push_back()` internally

```
using input = std::ranges::istream_view<int>;
std::vector<int> v{};
std::ranges::copy(input{std::cin}, std::back_inserter(v));
```

- Or, construct the `std::vector<T>` directly from two iterators

```
using input = std::istream_iterator<int>;
input eof{};
std::vector<int> const v{input{std::cin}, eof};
```

- **Prefer `std::array`/`std::vector` over plain C-Arrays**
- **Iterators specify ranges in C++**
- **Use algorithms over hand-written loops whenever possible**
- **Streams/containers require iterators to be processed by algorithms**
- **C++20 ranges simplify the use of algorithms**